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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES
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Governor's Advisory Committee on the Homeless

Response to Interim Report
April 28, 1983

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<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Governor's Response</u>	<u>Follow-Up</u>
I. Emergency Reponse Task Force		
A. <u>Boston Sub-Committee</u>		
1. DMH Contract for 250 beds	A series of meetings will be arranged between representatives of the Advisory Committee and the new Commissioner of Mental Health. This group will review existing DMH policies and recommend specific policy changes, including recommendations on the future of the Parker St. Shelter. The discussions will be arranged such that an interim report to the full committee can occur at the Committee's meeting in July and a full report September meeting.	OHR EOHS DMH
2. Boston Area Case Management Team Support Services to Shelters	The inter-secretariat staff, coordinated by OHR, will develop a plan for a coordinated support service program with staff from existing state agencies. This plan will be developed by July 1st. DMH will implement a case management system for the Boston area in FY'84.	OHR EOHS
3. Shattuck Hospital as a Transitional Facility	As long as my supplemental budget requests and House 1 are passed, Shattuck will be kept temporarily open until a suitable alternatives are developed. The priority will be to focus on smaller, community- based shelters.	EOHS OHR



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Discussions have begun with the City of Boston about a possible partnership arrangement with Long Hospital.

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| 4. Expand Traveler's Aid Contract with DPW extended. | The Traveler's Aid contract has been extended. Applicants can be served by Traveler's Aid without establishing eligibility at a local welfare office. Traveler's Aid will determine the eligibility. | DPW |
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B. Out-of Boston

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| 1. State Funds for Innovative Programs | House 1 provides for funds in EOHS for flexible programs. In addition, the CSBG Innovative Project Funds have targeted homeless programs as a priority. When possible, federal funds will also be used for flexible alternatives | OHR |
| 2. Separate Facilities for Different Populations | Wherever and whenever possible, it is agreed that different populations should have different shelter alternatives. | EOHS |
| 3. Fund Shelters on a Cost-Reimbursement Basis for the First Year | The DPW contract has been changed so that shelters can be funded on a cost-reimbursement basis. | DPW |
| 4. More Flexibility in DPW Funding | The DPW funds, as one part of a statewide homeless initiative, have been made more flexible with provision for cost reimbursement contracting and the eligibility of in-kind donations to meet monthly requirements. The DPW model will be reviewed | DPW
EOHS |

after the next round of funding.

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| 5. | Community Advisory Boards for each Shelter | Many shelters, as the DPW funding model requires, are part of incorporated entities with a Board of Directors. Community representation is to be encouraged. | DPW |
| 6. | Referral and Support Systems Intergrated into Shelter Operations | Agreed | EOHS |
| C. | <u>Shelter Guidelines</u> | It is agreed that the primary goal of Shelters is to introduce stability into people's lives. The Department of Public Welfare in consultation with experienced shelter operators will be developing a technical assistance guidebook for operating shelters. | DPW |
| D. | <u>Hotline</u> | A separate report has been issued by the Hotline sub-committee which I plan to review carefully before before making a decision on this issue. | OHR
EOHS
DSS |

II. Private Sector Initiatives (formely Public/Private Capital)

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| 1. | Need for Technical Assistance for Shelter Operators | The Department of Public Welfare is developing a full technical assistance package for new shelters, including a guidebook for new shelter operators. In addition, they are making planning and training assistance available through the contract mechanism for shelters. In addition, the United Way will be exploring what role it can play at a local level. Finally, offers of | EOHS
DPW |
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technical assistance services will be coordinated through existing mechanisms and the new fund for the Homeless.

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| 2. | Review of Anti-Aid Amendment; and Rate Setting Disincentives | A staff memorandum has been prepared on this subject and is currently under review. | OHR
EOHS
EOCD
Governor's Legal Counsel
Attorney General |
| 3. | Contributions from the Private Sector | A public/private partnership project has been developed with Permanent Charity Fund, which has agreed to establish a "Fund for the Homeless". | OHR
Permanent Charity Fund |

III. Cash Assistance/Supportive Services

A. Welfare Benefits

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| 1. | Regulatory Relief and Reform | Given series of recommendations related to benefit programs within DPW, I am requesting representatives of Advisory Committee meet and advise the new Commissioner of DPW on further reform in regulatory policy which will ensure that ensure that homeless persons and those imminently homeless can receive timely and practical access to needed assistance. Also, we will intensify our review of federal assistance options which the State could be using more effectively. In the meanwhile, administrative actions, such as those undertaken in February to provide a | DPW
EOHS
OHR |
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more flexible system of relief for those in desperate need, will continue as circumstances compel. Most recently, DPW has been instructed by EOHS secretary to implement a new set of policies to ensure that poverty level families in need of emergency assistance will not have to liquidate essential household possessions.

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| 2. | Implement GR Cost of Living and Grants Consolidation Program | To be implemented by May 1. | DPW |
| 3. | Reconsider GR Medical Review Program | Program is currently on hold. | EOHS
DPW |
| 4. | Stop Consolidation of Welfare Office | Consolidations are on hold. The review will be completed within the next few weeks | EOHS
DPW |
| 5. | Review Integrity of Computer Match Programs | An inter-agency group has been convened to review procedural safe-guards will be assured. | DPW
EOHS
A&F
Attorney General |
| 6. | Emergency Assistance for Pregnant Childless Women | Agreed - An implementation plan will be developed by DPW. | DPW
EOHS |

B. Supportive Services

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| 1. | Exempt Homeless from Work and Training Program | DPW is currently reviewing pertinent work and training requirements. The secretary of EOHS has established an Advisory Committee on Work and Training which will report back to him in 2 weeks. | EOHS
DPW |
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C. Case Advocacy

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| 1. | Replace DPW
Workload System | The collective bargaining agreement recently signed permits the DPW system to change from a workload to a case-load system. | EOHS |
| 2. | Review
Documentation
Requirements | This should be part of Committee's discussions with new Commissioner. | DPW |
| 3. | Family Shelter
should be
separate and
have support
services | Agreed | DSS |

D. Food

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| 1. | No Permanent
Address for Food
Stamp Eligibility
and WIC funds | Have clarified there is no such requirement, a mailing address should suffice. | DPW
DPH |
| 2. | Advocate against
further federal
cuts/solicit
further WIC
Funds | Agreed | Governor
Lt. Governor |
| 3. | Expand WIC
Funding | Advisory Committee presented well-researched arguments. We will use federal funds (Emergency Jobs Bill) to implement this recommendation as soon as possible. | EOHS |
| 4. | Fund DOE for
Surplus Food
Distribution | Use of existing and new federal funds will be explored. | OHR |
| 5. | Use of State
Land for
Community
Garden | Excellent idea requires further details from Advisory Committee | MDC
EOCD |

E. Deinstitutionalization

I have reviewed the full report on deinstitutionalization. As previously indicated the relationship of homelessness to mental illness will be a high priority of the new Commissioner. It is a very complex and sensitive issue. The new Mental Health Commissioner will meet with the sub-committee to review policies and problems. A plan will be developed to address these very serious problems.

OHR
DMH
EOHS

IV. Task Force on Long Term Housing Needs

Expand handicapped housing (Ch. 689) project on behalf of homeless	House 5001, due to be reported out of Legislative Committee the week of April 24th provides for \$15 million in increased budget authorization for the Ch. 689 program. Simultaneously EOCD is moving to forge a closer working relationship with EOHS whose role in Ch. 689 developments is critical. Shelter development is currently a recognized and utilized objective for use of these funds.	EOCD EOHS
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Streamline Allocation of Chapter 705 Scattered Site Family Housing Fund. Eligibility for non-Profits to expand. Lift monetary cap on 705 developments. Increase ownership Options	EOCD is currently working with Association of Community Development Corporations to explore the options available for non-profit participation. The subject will also be treated in more generic terms as part of overview of Anti-Aid policies. The current monetary limit on 705 units is necessary to guarantee the economic feasibility of the project. Home ownership options are better treated under EOCD's 707 program.	EOCD OHR
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Expand Chapter 667
Elderly Housing
Funds

House 5001 also includes \$66.6 million in new budget authorization by the Ch. 667 program and as recommended is projected to produce an additional 1500 units statewide. Congregate housing models will continue to be an encouraged use of this funding vehicle.

EOCD
DEA

Increase Flexibility
of Ch. 707 Rental
Assistance Funds
- non profit
 participation
- 689/707
 collaborations
- transitional
 housing
- resolve waiting
 list dilemmas
- raise income
 levels
- use for SRO
 dwelling

EOCD is pursuing all of these recommendation's including discussions with CDC's as previously noted, and work with Cambridge authorities on a model for use of Ch. 707 funds in the lodging house market. Conflicting priorities for waiting lists will be addressed as part of EOCD's investigation of a uniform state policy on exceptional cases.

EOCD

Assure Economic
Certainty of
Ch. 121A Low
Income Developments

Already part of 121A review.

EOCD

Increase Flexibility
of MIFA Financing,
including nonprofit
participation

Under review. Agree generally with principle of stimulating sources of capital financing for nonprofits working with priority populations.

EOCD

Lift restrictions
on use of Land
Bank Financing
for Residential
Development

Support more flexible use of Land Bank financing is reflected in House 5001 as reported out of legislative Committee.

EOCD

Advocate with
Congress for Federal
Programs to aid non-
profits with capital
financing of shelter
development

Agree

EOCD
Lt. Governor

Tax incentives for rehabilitation of deteriorating or arson-prone stock	High market valuations currently act as a deterrent to development of such stock. EOCD is investigating possibility of more flexible statutory requirements for specific reclamation projects.	EOCD
Exempt shelters from local zoning restrictions in communities of over 30,000 residents and in all but single family residence districts	EOCD concludes such flexibility may have a significant impact on housing production of this kind. Current statutory authority under review.	EOCD
Amend zoning law to encourage accessory apartment zoning ordinances	Communities currently have this authority. Local implementation needs further investigation.	EOCD
Statutory encouragement for incentive zoning ordinances	Zoning law expressly provides. Request advice of Task Force on trends in local enactment.	EOCD
Economic incentives for creation and maintenance of adequate single room occupancy stock	EOCD is currently working with individuals legislators, representatives of the Cambridge Housing Authority and nonprofit organizations to devise a model for use of Ch. 707 rental assistance funds in the lodging house market.	EOCD
Affirmative Action policies for local participation in low income housing programs, including homeless projects	EOCD plans continued, rigorous enforcement of permitting affirmative action review of application for state economic assistance.	EOCD
Ongoing agency mechanism for accessing long term needs of homeless	Administration supports direct problem solving approach as most responsive to needs of	OHR EOCD EOHS DEA

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homeless. Focus within Governor's Office will continue with the coordinating role of Office of Human Resources.

Implement comprehensive arson prevention and enforcement program of the state fire marshall

Under Investigation

OHR
EOCD

Legislation enabling communities to control condominium conversion

Governor supports pending legislation.

EOCD

Thank you for your thoughtful Interim Report. I look forward to your continued participation on the Committee and input on ways to solve the problem of homelessness in Massachusetts.

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

